GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1497
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
ACCURACY OF STATISTICAL DATA
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the accuracy of data collected and provided for short term and long term planning strategies to effectively deal with problems in different sectors and to ensure continuous higher growth rate of the economy;

(b) the major recommendations of the National Statistical Commission on the above matter;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing Collection of Statistics Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) The accuracy of data collected and provided for short term and long term planning strategies is ensured through the application of several statistical techniques and other measures available for controlling errors. India has a decentralised statistical system and different Ministries, Departments and other agencies of both Central and State Governments compile statistics as per requirement either from administrative records or through censuses and sample surveys. These statistics are subject to sampling and/ or non-sampling errors. Statistical techniques and other measures to control such errors are applied at the time of data collection. However, the improvement of the statistical system is a continuous process.

(b) The major recommendations of the National Statistical Commission include steps for improving the quality, timeliness and credibility of data, and bringing in legislative measures to strengthen the statistical system.

(c) The Government has introduced the Collection of Statistics Bill, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha on 17th May 2007. The Bill, thereafter, has been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on June 5, 2007 for examination and report within three months. The Bill is purported to replace the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953.

(d) The Collection of Statistics Bill, 2007 provides for enhancing the scope of collection of statistics. It provides for collection of all kinds of statistics not only from industrial/ commercial concerns, as provided in the existing Act, but also from individuals and households. The local governments such as Panchayats and Municipalities are also to be empowered to collect statistics in the proposed Bill. Apart from providing for all modes of data collection and for avoiding unnecessary duplication of data collection by various Government agencies, the Bill also provides for penalties for not furnishing information and furnishing false information.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (c) and (d) above.